

METHOD AND APPARATUS FOR BANDWIDTH ESTIMATION

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

1. *Related Applications*

5 [0001] The present application claims priority to U.S. Provisional
Application Number _____, filed June 5, 2001.

2. *Field of the Invention*

[0002] The present invention relates to wireless communications.
10 More specifically, the present invention relates to signal reception.

3. *Background Information*

[0003] A system for mobile wireless communications may support
communications between a base station and a mobile unit even when the
15 mobile unit is in motion. For example, a system for cellular telephony may
support communications even when the mobile unit is moving at a high rate of
speed, such as in an automobile or on a train.

[0004] Relative movement between a mobile unit and a base station in
communication may affect the characteristics of the transmission channel
20 between them, however. Specifically, this relative movement may give rise to
a Doppler frequency shift that results in a spreading of the transmitted signal at
the receiver. The Doppler effect may be illustrated graphically by comparing
spectral plots of a transmitted signal at the transmitter and at the receiver. For
example, a pilot signal of a code-division multiple-access (CDMA) system

(before pseudonoise (PN) spreading and transmission by a base station) may have a delta-function magnitude spectrum as shown in FIGURE 1A. As a result of the Doppler effect, the spectrum of the signal as received (and after PN despreading) by a mobile unit in motion may be spread as shown in the
5 magnitude spectrum of FIGURE 1B. The bandwidth of the spreading is a function of the carrier frequency and of the relative velocity, as described by the following expression:

$$f_d = f_c \frac{v}{c} \quad (1)$$

where f_d is the Doppler frequency, f_c is the carrier frequency, c is the speed of
10 light, and v is the relative velocity. Expression (1) demonstrates that the bandwidth of the Doppler spreading is dependent on (and increases with) the relative velocity. In a system for mobile wireless communications, the perceived relative velocity may be expected to change constantly. Additional discussion of the Doppler effect in wireless communications may be found in
15 *Microwave Mobile Communications*, W.C. Jakes, ed., 1974 (reprinted 1994 by IEEE Press, Piscataway, NJ) and *Wireless Communications*, T.S. Rappaport, Prentice-Hall, 1996.

[0005] Bandwidth spreading as caused by the Doppler effect may create inaccuracies in a signal as received. Information relating to Doppler
20 spreading of a signal may be applied within a receiver to improve reception of the spread signal (and possibly of other signals received over the same path). Unfortunately, existing methods for bandwidth estimation are too inefficient for practical application. What is needed is a method and apparatus to efficiently obtain a bandwidth estimate.

SUMMARY

[0006] A method according to an embodiment of the invention includes generating filter coefficients from a generating value, obtaining a power measure of a received signal with respect to a selected frequency, and
5 estimating a bandwidth of the received signal based on the power measure. In obtaining the power measure, a method includes multiplying samples of the received signal with the filter coefficients. In related embodiments, generating filter coefficients includes rotating a filter coefficient by the generating value. A method according to another embodiment of the invention includes
10 obtaining power measures of a received signal, each corresponding to a selected frequency, and estimating a bandwidth of the received signal based on the power measures.

[0007] A method according to another embodiment of the invention includes nonuniformly sampling a frequency spectrum of a received signal, determining power measures of the received signal at the sampling
15 frequencies, and obtaining an estimate of the bandwidth of the signal based on the power measures. In related embodiments, nonuniformly sampling the frequency spectrum includes filtering the received signal with filters centered at the selected sampling frequencies.

[0008] A filter according to an embodiment of the invention includes a
20 lookup table to store generating values, a first multiplier to receive a generating value and a current filter coefficient and to output a subsequent filter coefficient, an accumulator to store the subsequent filter coefficient, a second multiplier to multiply the current filter coefficient with a sample of a
25 received signal and to output a current filtered value, and an adder to receive the current and past filtered values and to output an accumulation signal. In related embodiments, a filter includes a power calculator to output a power measure based on a value of the accumulation signal.

[0009] A system according to an embodiment of the invention includes a lookup table to store generating values, filters to output power measures, and a bandwidth estimator to output an estimate of the bandwidth of a received signal. In related embodiments, the bandwidth estimator compares a relation
5 between two or more power measures to a predetermined threshold and/or modifies one or more power measures based on a power measure corresponding to a frequency outside an expected bandwidth of the received signal.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

10 [0010] FIGURE 1 is a diagram showing magnitude spectra of a signal as transmitted and as received.

[0011] FIGURE 2 is a diagram showing a magnitude spectrum of a signal as received and the frequency sampling points of an eight-point discrete Fourier transform.

15 [0012] FIGURE 3 is a diagram showing an application of a method according to an embodiment of the invention.

[0013] FIGURE 4 is a block diagram of a filter 100 according to an embodiment of the invention.

20 [0014] FIGURE 5 is a block diagram of a structure suitable for accumulator 130 and/or 160 of filter 100.

[0015] FIGURE 6 is a block diagram of a further implementation 300 of a filter 100 according to an embodiment of the invention.

[0016] FIGURE 7 is a block diagram of a system 400 according to an embodiment of the invention.

[0017] FIGURE 8 is a flowchart of a method according to an embodiment of the invention.

[0018] FIGURE 9 is a flowchart of a method according to another embodiment of the invention.

5 [0019] FIGURE 10A and 10B are flowcharts of a method according to another embodiment of the invention.

[0020] FIGURE 11 is a block diagram of a further implementation 200 of a filter 100 according to an embodiment of the invention.

10 [0021] FIGURE 12 is a diagram showing an application of a method according to an embodiment of the invention.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION

[0022] In situations where Doppler spreading may occur, a receiver may achieve better performance if it is configured to account for the current relative velocity between the transmitter and the receiver. For example, the receiver may perform filtering and/or other operations according to parameters whose optimal values may change according to the relative velocity. Even in a case where Doppler spreading is taken into account, the values assigned to these parameters may be based on statistical models that correspond to one or more fixed velocities. While this approach may yield good results when the actual relative velocity is close to a modeled velocity, it may not yield acceptable results when the relative velocity is far from a modeled velocity.

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[0023] Expression (1) above describes the relation between Doppler spreading bandwidth and relative velocity. As described herein, methods and apparatus for bandwidth estimation according to certain embodiments of the invention may be applied to support better receiver performance in situations

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where Doppler spreading may occur. Once a bandwidth estimate is obtained, for example, demodulator performance may be improved in a system for mobile wireless communications (such as a system for cellular telephony) by tuning parameters such as filter coefficients to the corresponding velocity. In a particular example, demodulator performance may be improved in a CDMA system by tuning the coefficients of a pilot filter to correspond to the current relative velocity. Additional applications for bandwidth estimation as performed by methods and apparatus according to embodiments of the invention are also possible: for example, to modify the passband of a filter to include more signal energy and/or to exclude more noise energy.

[0024] It is possible to estimate signal bandwidth by obtaining a spectrum of the received signal and determining the frequency at which signal power drops below a predetermined threshold. A spectrum of a sampled received signal may be obtained by applying an N -point discrete Fourier transform (DFT) to a string of N consecutive samples:

$$X_k = \sum_{n=0}^{N-1} p_n e^{-j2\pi kn/N}, \quad k \in \{0, 1, 2, \dots, N\} \quad (2)$$

where p_n denotes the samples of the received signal and X_k denotes the signal power at the discrete frequency k .

[0025] FIGURE 2 illustrates the spectrum of a received signal as obtained by applying an 8-point DFT (i.e. $N = 8$) to the signal (as sampled at a sampling frequency f_s). In this case, the spectrum is presented as a magnitude spectrum for each of the two components (I and Q) of the complex received signal S10. Note that the spectrum of this illustration is derived from only eight samples, with a resulting resolution in frequency of only $f_s/8$. To obtain meaningful results for a practical application, a much greater sample set and/or a much more narrow resolution may be required, with correspondingly larger

computational demands. For a sampling rate of 4800 samples/second, a 300-point DFT would be required to achieve a resolution of 16 Hertz (corresponding to, for example, approximately five miles per hour at a carrier frequency of 1 GHz). Although fast Fourier transform (FFT) techniques may
 5 be used to efficiently calculate a 2^x -point DFT (for positive integer x), this computationally intensive task would still require a large amount of processing capacity for sizable values of 2^x . Such a method may be impractical for real-time portable applications such as mobile wireless communications.

[0026] Rather than a spectrum that is uniformly sampled in frequency
 10 as produced by a DFT or FFT, it may be desirable to obtain a spectrum of a received signal that is nonuniformly sampled in frequency. For example, the bandwidth of the received signal may be known to some extent (e.g. from recent observations), and it may only be necessary to consider the received signal power at frequencies within a relatively narrow window. Narrowing of
 15 the search domain (e.g. through application of such information) may considerably reduce the amount of computation required for practical bandwidth estimation.

[0027] In a method according to one embodiment of the invention, the calculation of expression (2) above is performed only for m selected values of
 20 frequency k , where m is substantially less than N . In other words, the received signal is filtered with m filters, each centered about a frequency k and having an output H_k defined as follows:

$$H_k = \sum_{n=0}^{N-1} p_n e^{-j2\pi kn/N}, \quad k \in \{0, 1, 2, \dots, N\}. \quad (3)$$

[0028] In an exemplary application where $f_s = 4800$ Hertz and $N =$
 25 4800, a value of $m = 4$ may provide good results, although the scope of the invention includes any ratio of f_s to N and any value of m that provides a

computational advantage over computing the entire N -point DFT using a FFT technique. The m selected frequencies may be consecutive (as illustrated in FIGURE 3 for $m = 3$ and $N = 8$) and/or separated from one another. For example, it may be desirable to choose at least one frequency to be outside the expected bandwidth of the signal (e.g. at frequency π) in order to provide an estimate of the background noise power. It may be desired to select the m frequencies on only one side of the spectrum (as shown in FIGURE 3) or on both sides (e.g. to estimate both bounds of an asymmetrical bandwidth).

[0029] In some cases, bandwidth estimates from only one multipath signal may be sufficient to support determination of a Doppler frequency that is applicable to multiple code channels and/or to signals arriving over different paths. In a method according to a further embodiment of the invention, improved performance may be achieved by combining bandwidth estimates from signals arriving over different paths and/or carrier frequencies.

[0030] While FFT techniques may be used to efficiently calculate an entire N -point spectrum, they are not generally applicable to calculation of m filter outputs H_k as described above. Because of the unavailability of these optimizations, calculation of these filter outputs may be computationally expensive. In a method according to another implementation of the invention, the computational complexity of the filters is reduced. We rewrite expression (3) above as

$$H_k = \sum_{n=0}^{N-1} p_n e^{-j\Delta_k n}, \quad (4)$$

where the constant term Δ_k denotes $2\pi k/N$. Each coefficient of this finite-impulse-response filter is a phase vector with unit magnitude and a phase angle of $-(2\pi k/N)$. Note that we may expand expression (4) as follows:

$$H_k = p_0 + p_1 e^{-j\Delta_k} + p_2 e^{-j2\Delta_k} + p_3 e^{-j3\Delta_k} + p_4 e^{-j4\Delta_k} + \dots$$

or

$$H_k = p_0 + p_1 e^{-j\Delta_k} + p_2 (e^{-j\Delta_k}) e^{-j\Delta_k} + p_3 (e^{-j2\Delta_k}) e^{-j\Delta_k} + p_4 (e^{-j3\Delta_k}) e^{-j\Delta_k} + \dots.$$

These expansions demonstrate that each successive coefficient is the product
 5 of the previous coefficient and a generating value $e^{-j\Delta}$. We may rewrite
 expression (4) in an iterative form as

$$H_k = p_0 + \sum_{n=1}^{N-1} p_n e^{-j\Delta_k} e^{-j\Delta_k(n-1)}. \quad (5)$$

[0031] We define the accumulating value $e^{-j\Delta(n-1)}$ as the column matrix

$$\begin{bmatrix} \cos(\Delta(n-1)) \\ -\sin(\Delta(n-1)) \end{bmatrix}$$

10 and the generating value $e^{-j\Delta}$ as the 2×2 rotation matrix

$$\begin{bmatrix} \cos(\Delta) & \sin(\Delta) \\ -\sin(\Delta) & \cos(\Delta) \end{bmatrix}.$$

The resulting matrix operation may be performed without the calculation of
 any exponential functions. By precalculating and storing only the values
 $\sin(\Delta_k)$ and $\cos(\Delta_k)$ for each selected value of k , we may obtain each
 15 successive term of expression (4) from the previous term at runtime by
 performing only five complex multiplications (four for the rotation and one for
 the sample factor p_n) and two complex additions. As the run-time calculation
 of exponential functions may therefore be eliminated, the computational
 complexity of calculating the filter outputs H_k may be greatly reduced.

[0032] FIGURE 4 shows a block diagram of a filter 100 according to an embodiment of the invention. In response to a specified value or transition of initialization signal S20, accumulator 130 is initialized to store a value of one and accumulator 160 is initialized to store a value of zero. In response to
 5 a specified value or transition of clock signal S30, accumulators 130 and 160 latch the values present on their input signals. FIGURE 5 shows a block diagram of one structure suitable for accumulator 130 and/or 160, including a multiplexer 210, a latching storage element 220, and an initial value 230 which may be hardwired or supplied by an external process or device. Many other
 10 suitable structures for accumulators 130 and 160 are possible.

[0033] Lookup table 110 stores the values $\sin(\Delta_k)$ and $\cos(\Delta_k)$ and outputs the pair of values corresponding to a selected k (e.g. as directed by a processor (not shown)) to a multiplier 120. Clock signal S30 is synchronized with the arrival of each sample value on time series signal S10. During the
 15 first clock period, multiplier 140 and adder 150 pass the sample value p_0 unchanged, and accumulators 130 and 160 store the values $e^{-j\Delta_k}$ and p_0 , respectively. During the next clock period, multiplier 140 receives the values p_1 and $e^{-j\Delta_k}$ and outputs their product, adder 150 adds this product to the value p_0 , accumulator 130 stores the value $e^{-j2\Delta_k}$, and accumulator 160 stores
 20 the value $(p_0 + p_1 e^{-j\Delta_k})$.

[0034] When the $(N - 1)$ summations have been calculated and accumulated, accumulation signal S40 carries the filter output value H_k and initialization signal S20 is activated to initialize the accumulators. FIGURE 6 shows a filter 200 that includes a latching storage element 180 that latches the
 25 filter output value H_k in response to activation of initialization signal S20. It is understood that although storage element 180 is illustrated as a flip-flop, any other latching storage element or combination of such elements may be used,

and the value stored by storage element 180 may have an arbitrary number of bits.

[0035] It is possible to calculate the power of the signal at each of the m selected frequencies by calculating the magnitude of the complex values H_k .

5 Expression (6) below shows one method of calculating the power of the received signal from the filter response by squaring the absolute value of the filter response:

$$P_k = |H_k|^2. \quad (6)$$

FIGURE 7 shows a system 400 that includes a power calculator 490 that
10 performs the calculation of expression (6) to output a power measure S60 having the value P_k . In order to produce the m output values, apparatus as described herein may be operated serially using different values of k and/or multiple implementations of such apparatus may be operated in parallel.

[0036] Various techniques may be used to obtain a bandwidth estimate
15 from the signal power values P_k . In an absolute technique, the power values are compared to one or more predetermined thresholds. One such operation is to identify the frequency k or frequency interval $k-(k+1)$ at which the power drops below a predetermined threshold. However, the spectrum of the received signal from frequency 0 to frequency π may not be a monotonically
20 decreasing function, and this method may give an erroneous result in a case where a null or fade occurs in the spreading spectrum. Another such operation is to identify the greatest frequency k at which the power exceeds a predetermined threshold.

[0037] In a relative technique, relations among two or more power
25 values are compared to one or more predetermined thresholds. In one such operation, threshold values T1 and T2 are defined, and the Doppler spreading

frequency f_d is determined to be a frequency k at which the following expression holds:

$$\frac{P_k}{P_{k+1}} > T1 \quad \text{AND} \quad \frac{P_{k+1}}{P_{k+2}} > T2. \quad (7)$$

Many other methods of determining the Doppler frequency of the received
5 signal from the power values are possible.

[0038] Once the Doppler frequency f_d has been estimated, the relative
velocity may be estimated by applying expression (1) above. As noted herein,
the receiver may then apply appropriate modifications to velocity-dependent
parameters in order to increase the performance of the receiver. For cases in
10 which only one or only a few carrier frequencies f_c are used, it may be
convenient to store the conversion of f_d to relative velocity v in a lookup table.

[0039] FIGURE 8 shows a flowchart of a method according to an
embodiment of the invention. Task P110 nonuniformly samples a spectrum of
a received signal at selected frequencies. Task P120 determines power
measures of the received signal relative to the selected frequencies. Task P130
15 estimates a bandwidth of the received signal based on the power measures.

[0040] FIGURE 9 shows a flowchart of a method according to another
embodiment of the invention. Task P210 receives a generating value. Task
P220 generates filter coefficients from the generating value. Task P230
20 obtains a power measure of a received signal with respect to a selected
frequency (which frequency may be established by the generating value). Task
P130 estimates a bandwidth of the received signal based on the power
measures.

[0041] FIGURES 10A and 10B show flowcharts of a method
25 according to another embodiment of the invention. Task P232 obtains power

measures of a received signal, each power measure corresponding to a selected frequency. Task P132 estimates a bandwidth of the received signal based on the power measures. As shown in FIGURE 10B, task P232 may include an arbitrary number of subtasks P240i, each including a task P210i that receives a
 5 generating value, a task P220i that generates filter coefficients from the generating value, and a task P260i that multiplies each of the filter coefficients with a corresponding sample of the received signal.

[0042] In a method according to a further embodiment of the invention, one or more windowing functions are applied to modify one or
 10 more of the m filters. In a particular example, a rectangular window of width $L < N$ is applied to each of the m filters, resulting in filters whose output values G_k are described by the following expression:

$$G_k = p_0 + \sum_{n=1}^{L-1} p_n e^{-j\Delta_k} e^{-j\Delta_k(n-1)}, \Delta = 2\pi k/N, k \in \{0,1,2,\dots,N\}. \quad (8)$$

This particular windowing function results in a substitution of L for N in the
 15 summation index, further reducing the computational complexity of the filter and also reducing the size of the sample set required to obtain each filter output value from N to L . For an exemplary implementation in which $N = 4800$, L may have a value in the neighborhood of $N/2$ or $N/4$. Computational advantages may be gained in particular applications by choosing L to be an
 20 integer power of two.

[0043] Another effect of the substitution in expression (8) is to change the width W of the main lobe of the filter's frequency response, as W is inversely proportional to L :

$$W = 2f_s/L. \quad (9)$$

This expression demonstrates that as L decreases, the width of the main lobe of the filter's response increases. It may be desirable to use more than one value of L among the m filters, although it should be noted that the resulting difference in the filters' frequency responses may have the effect of making their outputs not strictly comparable (although compensation before comparison is possible).

[0044] In another method according to an embodiment of the invention, bandwidth estimation is performed in more than one stage, with different values of L , k , and/or m being used for the filters at each stage. In one two-stage example, a larger value of L , a smaller value of m , and more closely spaced values of k is used at the second stage, the values of k being selected within a narrow window of interest as indicated by the outputs of the filters of the first stage.

[0045] Each of the coefficients of the filters described in expressions (5) and (8) has a unit magnitude. Other windowing functions may be applied that remove this property (e.g. triangular, Hanning, Hamming). FIGURE 8 shows a block diagram of an implementation 200 of filter 100 that includes a lookup table 240 configured to store the coefficients of the windowing function and a multiplier 250 to scale the filter coefficients accordingly.

[0046] It may be desirable to choose a windowing function having coefficients that are positive or negative powers of two so that multiplier 250 may be implemented as a shifter for more rapid calculation. For example, a filter's frequency response may be modified by multiplying the terminal (i.e. first and last) and/or near-terminal coefficients by $1/2$, $1/4$, etc.

[0047] As the value of L in expression (8) increases, more quantization error may accumulate into the result. For a particular application, this effect may limit the maximum value of L even if additional computational capacity is

available. As noted above and as illustrated in FIGURE 9, it may also be desirable to use one or more out-of-band filters (e.g. filter 6 in FIGURE 9 at frequency π) to quantify the noise within the communications system. The power value from the noise filter(s) may be subtracted from the power values
5 from the other filters and/or used to modify the threshold value(s) before estimation of f_d .

[0048] In CDMA and other systems, a pilot signal may be used to support coherent demodulation (e.g. of phase-shift-keying modulated signals). In an exemplary application of a method or apparatus according to an
10 embodiment of the invention, the bandwidth of a pilot filter is modified according to the estimated bandwidth of the pilot signal. Such an operation may improve the quality of the resulting phase reference and improve demodulator performance.

[0049] In certain applications of a method according to an embodiment
15 of the invention, it may be possible to perform preprocessing operations on the received signal before bandwidth estimation. In one example, a receiver includes an automatic gain control (AGC) circuit. Applying an AGC operation may reduce the required dynamic range of subsequent operations, such as analog-to-digital conversion. Once the received signal passes through
20 the AGC circuit, however, its envelope may become relatively constant, and much of the attenuation information caused by the fading channel may be lost. As the bandwidth of the signal remains unchanged, however (especially for a signal transmitted with constant power and phase at least over a specified time interval, such as a pilot signal of a CDMA system), it may be possible to
25 perform such a preprocessing operation upstream of a method or apparatus according to an embodiment of the invention.

[0050] The foregoing presentation of the described embodiments is provided to enable any person skilled in the art to make, use, or apply a

method or apparatus for bandwidth estimation. Various modifications to the described embodiments are possible, and the principles presented herein may be applied to other embodiments as well. For example, a method or apparatus according to an embodiment of the invention may also be extended to perform
5 bandwidth estimation by noncoherently integrating frequency measurements acquired from more than one coherent sample set. A method or apparatus according to an embodiment of the invention may also be implemented in part or in whole as a hard-wired circuit, as a circuit configuration fabricated into an application-specific integrated circuit, or as a firmware program loaded into
10 non-volatile storage or a software program loaded from or into a data storage medium as machine-readable code, such code being instructions executable by an array of logic elements such as a microprocessor or other digital signal processing unit.

[0051] A method or apparatus according to an embodiment of the
15 invention may be used within a mobile receiver and/or a stationary receiver. Such a method or apparatus may be applied to a pilot signal to obtain a better phase reference signal for demodulation and/or to a data signal to reduce interference. Various other noise characterization techniques may also be incorporated within such a method or apparatus to compensate for the out-of-
20 band noise during bandwidth estimation. Although quantization noise may accumulate for large values of L as mentioned above, it may also be desirable to use reduced-bit-width storage or calculation in performing certain operations within implementations of a method or apparatus according to an embodiment of the invention. It is also within the scope of the invention to
25 apply the principles set forth herein to transforms other than the discrete Fourier transform, such as the discrete cosine transform. Thus, the present invention is not intended to be limited to the embodiments shown above but rather is to be accorded the widest scope consistent with the principles and novel features disclosed in any fashion herein.